AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached two sheets of drawings includes changes to Figs. 1 and 2. The [REPLACEMENT] sheet of Fig. 1 replaces the original Fig. 1 sheet; the [REPLACEMENT] sheet of Fig. 2 replaces the original Fig. 2 sheet. Figs. 1 and 2 are amended to include reference numbers.

Attachment(s): Replacement Sheet (Fig. 1)
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes (Fig. 1)
Replacement Sheet (Fig. 2)
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes (Fig. 2)

REMARKS

Claims 9 to 16 are pending. Claim 10 was amended. No new matter has been added to the claims.

The Drawings have been amended. No new matter has been added to the Drawings. The Specification has been amended in accordance with the amendments to the Drawings. No new matter has been added to the Specification.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of this response.

Objections to the Drawings

Figs. 1 and 2 were rejected for not having reference numerals. In accordance with the Examiner's request, Applicants have amended Figs. 1 and 2 to have reference numbers and have submitted herewith those Figs. for acceptance by the Patent Office. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the Figs. 1 and 2 are now allowable; and, withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

Objections to the Specification

The Specification was objected to for not including the MPEP's suggested section headings and for lack of antecedent bases. Applicants respectfully submit that Applicants' "Substitute Specification" submitted to the Patent Office on August 27, 2001 should be the current Specification of Record. Applicants' "Substitute Specification" does include section headings in an acceptable manner.

The Specification was objected to for not providing proper antecedent support for claims 9 and 14. While Applicants believe that the Specification – e.g., in the Summary of the Invention and the Detailed Description – does provide support for the claims, the Specification has been amended to include the text of claims 9 and 14. No new matter has been added.

The Specification was objected to for claims 9, 10 and 15 for reciting terms of "special signal improvements" and "standard conversion." Applicants respectfully submit that such terms are explained throughout the Specification of Record (i.e., the "Substitute Specification" submitted by Applicants on August 27, 2001), including at page 3, line 28 – page 4, line 2; page 4, lines 19-21 and 28-34; and page 4, line 36 – page 5, line 21.

The Specification was objected to for referencing claims in its text. Applicants respectfully submit that the Substitute Specification previously submitted to the Patent Office is not believed to include such references.

The Specification was amended to include reference numbers in the description corresponding to the amended Figs. 1 and 2. No new matter has been added.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all objections to the Specification have been overcome by the foregoing and in view of the amendments to the Specification; and, withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 9, 10 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Specifically, claims 9 and 15 were rejected for reciting "signal improvement... with respect to data format." Applicants respectfully submit that claims 9 and 15 are not indefinite and describe appropriately "signal improvement." For example, such parameters for signal improvement may be defined by the user in a table, as described in the Specification. See also, the Specification at page 4, lines 28 – 34; and page 5, lines 1-8, and Fig. 2 and its accompanying description. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 9 and 15 are allowable and any rejections of claims 9 and 15 should be withdrawn.

Claim 10 was rejected for reciting the term "improvable." Applicants respectfully submit that the Specification makes clear what signals are improvable. For example, see the Specification at page 4, lines 28-34 and page 5, lines 10-21. Applicants have amended claim 10 to read more clearly, and no new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 10 is allowable and any rejections of claim 10 should be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 9 to 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,640,198 to Makiyama ("Makiyama reference") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,941,953 to Bergmann ("Bergmann reference").

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 9 to 16 (some amended above) are allowable over the cited references.

The Makiyama reference purportedly describes a communication between an image-information storage device and a terminal even in the case of differing image formats. Abstract. The Makiyama reference refers to an image data delivery request, transmitted from a terminal and received by a receiving portion, having information indicated the terminal's source format of CIF or QCIF which is transferred to a communication control portion. Abstract. The Makiyama reference further refers to the communication control portion informing the source format control portion of the source format of the terminal. Abstract. The Makiyama reference further refers to a terminal having CIF source format data as begin transmitted through a transmitter portion to the terminal having CIF source format; and for a terminal having QCIF source format data the part of the image data transferred from the image-information storage device is extracted and converted into data of QCIF source format control portion, and the converted data of the QCIF source format is then transmitted through to a transmitting portion of the terminal. Abstract.

The Bergmann reference purportedly describes an endpoint module which is generated for each audio/video device and then forms the interface to the remaining modules. Abstract. The Bergmann reference refers to when a data packet is to be transmitted from one device to another device, an event or a request is generated, which is evaluated by an event module, which then selects the corresponding endpoint modules and establishes a logical link between these endpoint modules; the data packet being controlled by means of a data module, which also initiates the storage of the data packet. Abstract. The Bergmann reference further refers to that following termination of the transmission of the data packet, the event module searches for further requests which can be held in a queue in a waiting loop. Abstract.

The Makiyama and Bergmann references do not together or alone describe or teach all of the features of claim 9.

Claim 9 is directed to a method for transmitting digitized, broadband data, which are suppliable by various sources for retransmission and which are selectable by a user via a reverse channel, including performing signal analysis on source signals, and, if necessary, converting a data format of the source signals; *centrally comparing the source signals to a quality measure before* performing the signal analysis and before the retransmission, wherein the quality measure is demanded by a selecting user; and *performing a signal improvement on inferior quality signals with respect to* the data format and *errors of the source signals, wherein the signal improvement includes at least one of a standard conversion through an up-conversion and a special signal improvement.* Both the Makiyama and Bergmann references do not teach or describe the method as described in claim 9, including centrally comparing the source signals to a quality measure before signal analysis and retransmission, performing a signal improvement on inferior quality signals with respect to the errors of the source signals, etc. Further, the Office Action agrees at least that the Makiyama reference does not teach or describe the comparing of the source signals. And, the Bergmann reference does not teach or describe the exact comparison as described in claim 9 – that is, comparing the source signals to a quality measure before signal analysis and retransmission of digitized broadband data. Instead, the Bergmann reference concerns itself with using modules when data is transmitted for recording audio and video data, etc. (See col. 3, lines 40 et seq.; Abstract, col. 1). Accordingly, the Makiyama and Bergmann references (even if combinable – although it is respectfully submitted they are not) do not appear to teach or describe the comparison as claimed in claim 9.

Claims 10 to 14 depend from claim 9 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as for claim 9. Claim 15 and its dependent claim 16 include features analogous to those of claim 9 and are therefore allowable for essentially the same reasons as claim 9.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 9 to 16 are allowable; and, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 9 to 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

It is therefore respectfully submitted that claims 9 to 16 are allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the objections and rejections to the Drawings, Specification and Claims, have been obviated, and that claims 9 to 16 are allowable. It is therefore respectfully requested that the objections and rejections be withdrawn, and that the present application issue as early as possible.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss this case, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

By Richard L Mayer Reg No 47084

Dated: May 19, 2005

By: Richard L. Mayer
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[ANNOTATED SHEET]

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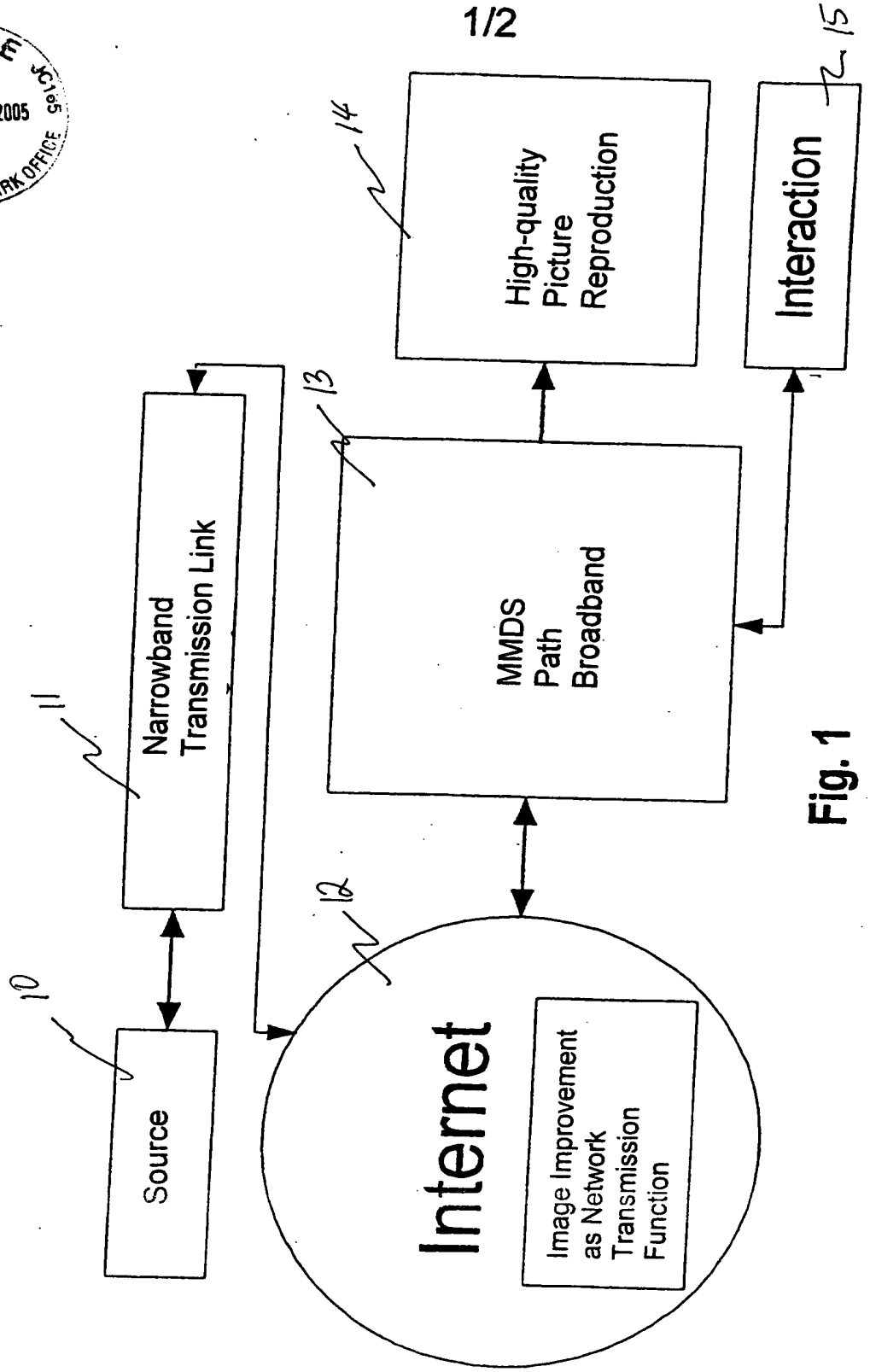

Fig. 1

[ANNOTATED SHEET]

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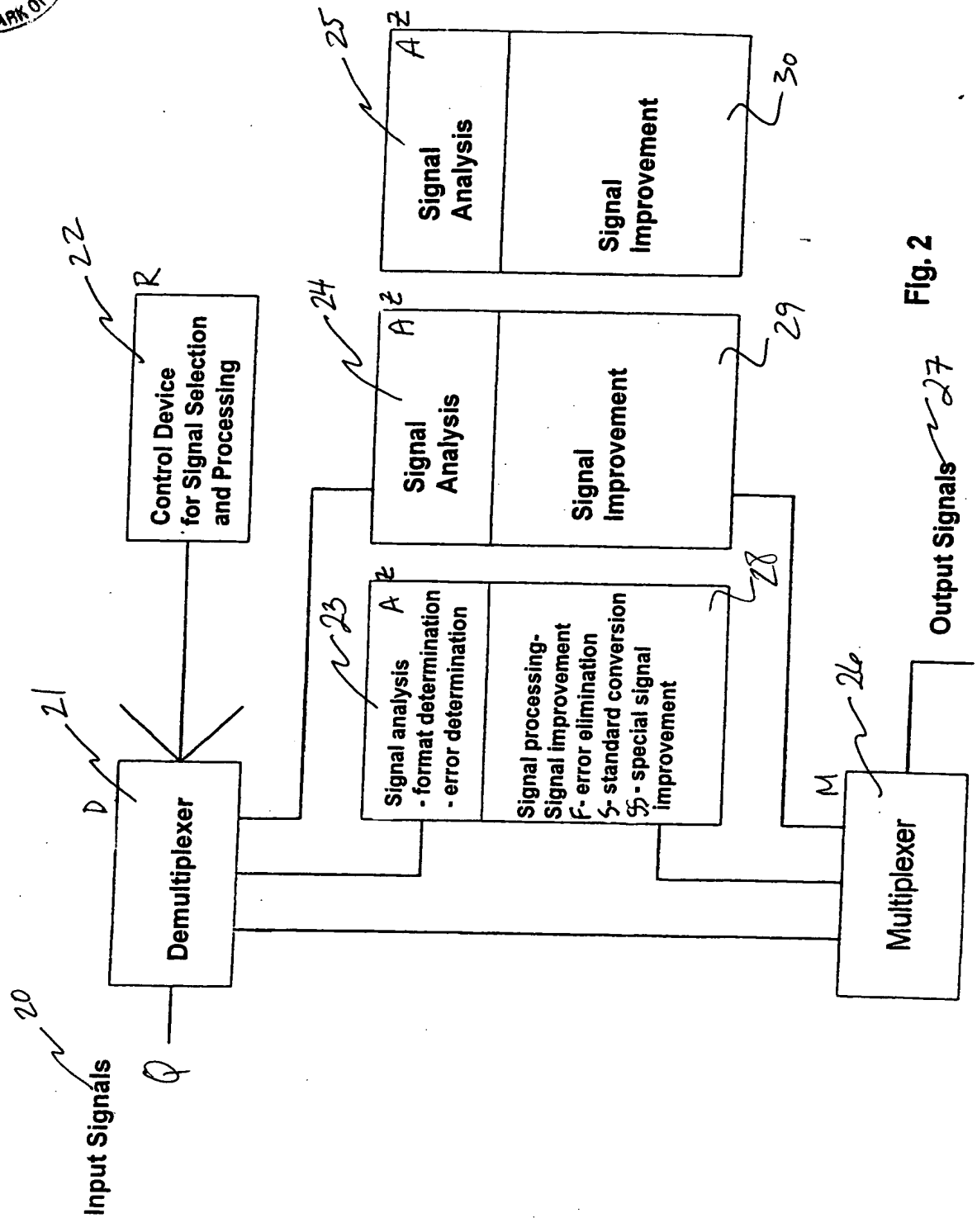

Fig. 2